Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /089 W

-----041644 131720Z /47

PR 131447Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8654

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

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AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

PRETORIA ALSO FOR AMBASSADOR LOW

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PEPR ZA SF WA RH CG

SUBJ: KAUNDA SPEECH TO NATIONAL COUNCIL: POLITICAL ASPECTS

REF: LUSAKA 2090

1. SUMMARY: IN HIS JUNE 12 ADDRESS TO THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE PARTY (UNIP), ZAMBIA'S SUPREME POLICY-MAKING BODY, PRESIDENT KENNETH KAUNDA PRESENTED A MODERATE AND UNEMOTIONAL SUMMARY OF ZAMBIA'S VIEW OF THE CURRENT SITUATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN SOUTHERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA AND OUTLINED THE PRINCIPLES UPON WHICH ZAMBIAN POLICY WILL BE BASED IN DEALING WITH THE PROBLEMS OF THE AREA. TOUCHING ONLY BRIEFLY ON ZAMBIAN INTERNAL POLITICAL QUESTIONS, KAUNDA DISCUSSED THE INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS OF CONFLICTS IN THE REGION AND GAVE SPECIFIC ATTENTION TO SHABA, RHODESIA, AND NAMIBIA. END SUMMARY.

- 2. INTERNAL POLITICS: NOTING THAT ZAMBIA AND ITS SYSTEM OF PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY WAS "GOING THROUGH A SEVERE TEST," KAUNDA SAID THAT ELECTIONS BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR WOULD DETERMINE WHETHER ZAMBIANS WOULD OPT FOR GREATER PEACE, SECURITY, AND PROGRESS, OR WOULD ALLOW "THE FORCES OF DESTRUCTION" TO UNDERMINE NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE. HE TOLD THE ASSEMBLED DELEGATES THAT THIS WAS A CRUCIAL SESSION FOR THE NATIONAL COUNCIL AND URGED THEM TO INTENSIFY EFFORTS IN PREPARATION FOR NATIONAL ELECTIONS.
- 3. INTERNATIONAL SETTING: KAUNDA WARNED THAT AFRICA IS RAPIDLY BECOMING "A BATTLEGROUND FOR INTERNATIONAL FORCES...REMINISCENT OF THE COLD WAR." HE SAID THAT "AFRICA IS ON FIRE," AND THAT ZAMBIA'S RESPONSE TO EVOLVING EVENTS MUST BE A CONSTRUCTIVE ONE. HE REMINDED DELEGATES THAT THE SECURITY OF ITS NEIGHBORS IS VITAL TO THE WELL-BEING OF ZAMBIA AND THAT THE NATION WANTS STRONG, PEACEFUL AND PROSPEROUS NEIGHBORS. HE SAID THAT ZAMBIA'S POLICY TOWARD CRISES IN THE REGION IS BASED ON THE FOLLOWING SEVEN PRINCIPLES: A) UNITY OF ZAMBIA AND AFRICA, B) COOPERATION WITH NEIGHBORING STATES, C)NON-ALIGNMENT AS THE BEST HOPE FOR A FREE AFRICA; D) LIBERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA; E) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SELF-RELIANCE; F) INTERNAL SECURITY; AND G) SOVEREIGNTY OVER INTERNAL AFFAIRS.
- 4. SHABA: PRESIDENT KAUNDA SAID THAT A LASTING SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS IN SHABA REQUIRED "VISION AND COURAGE WHICH WE BELIEVE PRESIDENT MOBUTU HAS," AND PLEDGED THAT ZAMBIA WOULD PLAY ANY ROLE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHICH ZAIRE DESIRED. POINTING OUT THAT EVENTS IN SHABA AFFECTED THE SECURITY OF ZAMBIA, KAUNDA ALSO NOTED THAT ZAMBIA WOULD NOT SUPPORT ANY FORCE LEADING TO DIVISION IN AFRICA NOR WOULD IT ASSIST THOSE ACTING AGAINST "ANY NEIGHBOR IN FREE AFRICA."

- 5. RHODESIA: KAUNDA GAVE ONE OF HIS STRONGEST ENDORSEMENTS TO DATE OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS FOR RHODESIA, CALLING THEM "THE BEST HOPE FOR A TRULY INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE." HE URGED THAT A CONFERENCE OF ALL THE PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT BE HELD, AND SPECIFIED THAT THE INTERNAL GROUPS AS WELL AS THE PATRIOTIC FRONT SHOULD "PARTICIPATE IN SHAPING THE FUTURE OF ZIMBABWE." STATING THAT HE WAS GIVING ADVICE IN GOOD FAITH, KAUNDA REITERATED HIS STAND THAT THE INTERNAL AGREEMENT WOULD ONLY LEAD TO CIVIL WAR. HE APPEALED TO THE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL LEADERS "NOT TO CONCENTRATE ON SAVING THEIR FACES," BUT RATHER TO TAKE THE BOLD DECISIONS NECESSARY TO ENSURE A FREE AND PROSPEROUS ZIMBABWE.
- 6. NAMIBIA: KAUNDA VOICED SUPPORT IN PRINCIPLE FOR THE WESTERN FIVE'S PROPOSALS ON NAMIBIA, WHICH HE SAID PROVIDED A POSITIVE BASIS FOR ENDING THE CONFLICT. NOTING THAT HE SYMPATHIZED WITH SOME OF SWAPO'S OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSALS, HE NEVERTHELESS SAID HE BELIEVES THAT IT IS NOW POSSIBLE TO REACH AN AGREEMENT. HE

WARNED THAT SOUTH AFRICA WOULD ATTEMPT TO SABOTAGE THE PLAN AND PROCEED WITH THE INSTALLATION OF A "PUPPET REGIME," BUT THAT THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SOUTH AFRICAN COMPLIANCE RESTS WITH THE WEST. HE NOTED THAT IF NEGOTIATIONS FAILED BECAUSE OF SOUTH AFRICAN INTRASIGNCE, ZAMBIA WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT SWAPO IN ITS ARMED STRUGGLE.

7. COMMENT: THIS WAS ONE OF THE MOST MEASURED, BALANCED, AND REASONED ADDRESSES WHICH KAUNDA HAS GIVEN IN RECENT MEMORY. MOREOVER, NOTABLE IN HIS APPROACH TO THE ISSUES DISCUSSED, WAS KAUNDA'S EMPHASIS ON ZAMBIA'S OWN SELF-INTEREST RATHER THAN GENERAL PHILOSOPHICAL PRINCIPLES. HE CONTINUED EFFORTS TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE DONE TO RELATIONS WITH ZAIRE AS A RESULT OF THE SHABA INVASION BY EMPHASIZING THAT ZAMBIA WOULD NOT SUPPORT EFFORTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DIRECTED AGAINST ITS NEIGHBORS. REGARDING RHODESIA, HE CAME OUT WITH CLEAR SUPPORT FOR THE UK/US PROPOSALS AND SPECIFICALLY ENDORSED PARTICIPATION OF THE INTERNAL NATIONALISTS IN DECIDING THE FUTURE OF ZIMBABWE. LIKEWISE ON NAMIBIA HE OPENLY BACKED THE WESTERN EFFORT TO FIND A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT.

8. THE MAJOR CONCERN EXPRESSED THROUGHOUT THE POLITICAL SECTION OF HIS SPEECH DEALT WITH THE INTERNATIONALIZING OF CONFLICTS IN AFRICA. ALTHOUGH THIS CONCERN IS NOT NEW TO KAUNDA, THE EVENTS IN SHABA AND THEIR AFTERMATH HAVE BROUGHT IT INTO CLEAR AND IMMEDIATE FOCUS. LACKING THE EMOTIONALISM WHICH SO OFTEN HAS CHARACTERIZED HIS APPROACH TO THE PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA, KAUNDA'S ADDRESS REFLECTS A REAL AND RATIONAL APPRECIATION OF THE DANGERS THE CONTINENT FACES. CLINGERMAN.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: SPEECHES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 13 jun 1978 Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LUSAKA02106
Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Film Number: D780247-0021 Format: TEL

From: LUSAKA

Handling Restrictions: n/a Image Path:

Expiration:

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780666/aaaacelu.tel

Line Count: 150 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History: Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Message ID: f75b498a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc Office: ACTION AF

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 78 LUSAKA 2090

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 28 apr 2005 Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:**

Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2375508 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: KAUNDA SPEECH TO NATIONAL COUNCIL: POLITICAL ASPECTS TAGS: PINT, PEPR, ZA, SF, WA, RH, CG, XJ, (KAUNDA, KENNETH DAVID)

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f75b498a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014